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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
CHRISTENSEN et al. )  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filing Date: Herewith ) Group Art Unit No. : Not Yet Assigned  
For: A CONNECTING PIECE FOR A )  
TUBING )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendment to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**An Abstract** on a separate sheet is attached following the Remarks.